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EXAMINER

PHAM, HOAI V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2814

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,739

Applicant(s)

PHARN ET AL.

Examiner

Hoai v. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 5-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ma [U.S. Pat. 6,054,334] previously applied.

With respect to claim 1, Ma (fig. 8, cols. 3-9) discloses an integrated circuit, comprising:

a fuse corner pad located at a first corner of the integrated circuit,

wherein said fuse corner pad includes a fuse contact (8) coupled to said fuse corner pad, and

wherein fuse corner pad is incapable of being bonded to an external electrical connection (see col. 3, lines 23-33).

With respect to claim 2, Ma discloses that a fuse element (32) connected to said fuse contact (see fig. 10 and col. 8, lines 6-8).

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With respect to claim 5, Ma discloses that wherein said fuse contact (8) is capable of being probed without being bonded to an external connection (see col. 3, lines 25-33).

With respect to claim 6, Ma discloses that an auxiliary pad (8) coupled to the fuse corner pad (see fig. 1).

With respect to claim 7, Ma discloses that wherein said auxiliary pad (8) is a second fuse contact (see fig. 1).

With respect to claim 8, Ma discloses that wherein said auxiliary pad (8) communicates signals for circuit testing (see col. 3, lines 23-33).

With respect to claim 9, Ma (figs. 1 and 10, col. 3) discloses a fuse corner pad located at a corner of a semiconductor die, comprising:

a fuse contact (8) coupled to the fuse corner pad;

wherein said fuse corner pad is incapable of being bonded to an external electrical connection (see col. 3, lines 23-33); and

a fuse element (32) connected to said fuse contact (see fig. 10 and col. 8, lines 6-8).

With respect to claim 10, Ma discloses that wherein said fuse contact (8) is capable of being probed without being bonded to an external connection (see col. 3, lines 23-33).

With respect to claim 11, Ma (fig. 8, cols. 3-9) discloses a semiconductor die, comprising:

at least one I/O pad (8), on the semiconductor die (2), for communicating signals; and

a fuse corner pad (8) having a fuse (32) (see fig. 10) integrated within said fuse corner pad (8), wherein said fuse corner pad is located at a corner of the semiconductor die, and wherein fuse corner pad is incapable of being bonded to an external electrical connection (see col. 3, lines 23-33).

With respect to claim 12, Ma discloses that wherein said fuse corner pad (8) is capable of being probed without being bonded to an external connection (see col. 3, lines 25-33).

With respect to claim 13, Ma discloses that wherein said fuse corner pad (8) is one of four fuse corner pads, wherein each of said four fuse corner pads is located at a respective corner of the semiconductor die (see fig. 1).

With respect to claim 14, Ma (fig. 8, col. 3) discloses an integrated circuit, comprising:

a fuse corner pad located at a first corner of the integrated circuit, wherein said fuse corner pad includes a fuse contact (8) coupled to said fuse corner pad, and wherein fuse corner pad is incapable of being bonded to an external electrical connection (see col. 3, lines 23-33).

With respect to claim 15, Ma discloses that a fuse element (32) connected to said fuse contact (8) (see fig. 10 and col. 8, lines 6-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma [U.S. Pat. 6,054,334] previously applied.

Ma discloses all the limitations as claimed above except the fuse element is adapted to adjust a transmitting waveform to comply with a predefined parameter or to communicate a state of the fuse element. However, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987)*. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the fuse element for adjusting a transmitting waveform to comply with a predefined parameter or to communicate a state of the fuse element.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 3/29/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Ma does not describe a pad located at a corner of either a semiconductor die or integrated circuit.

Applicant's argument is not persuasive because Ma clearly discloses a pad (8) located at a (first) corner of either a semiconductor die or integrated circuit (see fig. 1). Furthermore, the claim does not define specific dimension of a (first) corner of the

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semiconductor die or integrated circuit in which the pad is located. It is noted that, "at a (first) corner" is a relative term, wherein "at a (first) corner" means "near a corner" (see the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary at attached). Therefore, in examiner's view based on the claimed language, Ma still meets and anticipates the claimed language.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoai v. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-1715. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael M. Fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


HOAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER